

Amendments to the Specification

Beginning on page 1, line 6, replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

Cross-reference is made to U.S. Patent ~~Applications~~ Application Serial No.

~~09/AAA,AAA~~10/046,314, entitled "Symmetrical Structural Pattern Matching" (~~Attorney~~
~~Docket No. D/A0858~~), which is assigned to the same assignee as the present invention and
incorporated herein by reference.

Beginning on page 3, line 12, replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

The present invention has been made in consideration of the above situation and provides an article of manufacture and a method, method and article of manufacture therefor, for operating a computer system for evaluating a programming language statement that includes a first and a second sub-statement. The first sub-statement is evaluated and an evaluation success result is determined if the evaluation succeeds. If the evaluation fails, a distinguished value is determined that is a value not included in the range of possible evaluation success results of the first sub-statement. Further, it is determined whether the second sub-statement is to be evaluated and if so, the second sub-statement is evaluated and an evaluation success result is determined if the evaluation succeeds. If the evaluation fails, the distinguished value is determined. The range of possible evaluation success results of the second sub-statement does not include the distinguished value. An evaluation result of the statement is determined depending on at least whether the evaluation of the first sub-statement succeeds or fails.

Beginning on page 38, line 14, replace the paragraph with the following paragraph:

The ordered action system consists of a succession of actions to be tried in the given order. In the following definition, v_f denotes a "fresh" variable, i.e with a unique name:

$$n \geq 2 \quad [[e_1, \dots, e_n]] \rightarrow \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{var } v_f = e_1. \\ \text{if } (v_f == \text{none}) \\ \quad \text{then } [[e_2, \dots, e_n]] \quad [\text{Asys1}] \\ \quad \text{else } v_f \end{array} \right]$$

$$[[e]] \rightarrow e \quad [\text{Asys2}]$$

It is to be noted that this ~~definiton~~definition implies that all actions e_1, \dots, e_{n-1} must be bi-valuated, i.e possibly evaluated to "none"; the last one can be mono-valuated. In that case the whole system becomes itself mono-valuated, since a value different from "none" will be finally returned.